

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OPR-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 IO-10 AID-05

FDRE-00 EUR-12 CCO-00 A-01 /083 W

----- 034296

Z 161022Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 2831

AMEMBASSY SAIGON FLASH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 6560

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, SOPN, CB, US

SUBJ: EVACUATION OF AMCITS STILL IN PHNOM PENH

CAMBODIA-B NO. 39

1. AMBASSADOR DEAN HAS JUST RECEIVED FOLLOWING COMMERCIAL CABLE FROM SYDNEY SCHANBERG IN PHNOM PENH. AS BEST WE CAN FIGURE OUT IT WAS SENT AT 0845 HOURS 16 APRIL AND RECEIVED BANGKOK AT 1151 HOURS SAME DAY. COMPLETE TEXT FOLLOWS:

2. BEGIN TEXT: AMBASSADOR JOHN GUNTHER DEAN, AMERICAN EMBASSY BANGKOK. MISTER AMBASSADOR, ONLY ONE AMERICAN NEWSMAN HAS TAKEN REFUGE IN FRENCH EMBASSY FOR PURELY PERSONAL REASONS. AS FAR AS I KNOW NONE OF REST OF US WISH TO COME OUT. WE HAVE SEEN PLAYBACK OF BANGKOK WORLD STORY QUOTING YOU SAYING WE SENT YOU SOS RPT SOS ASKING FOR EVACUATION BECAUSE WE FEAR EXECUTION BY INSURGENTS. NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM TRUTH. WE FEAR NO SUCH THING. CANNOT IMAGINE YOU HAVE SAID SUCH AN OUTRAGEOUS THING. ASSUME YOU WILL DENY STORY IMMEDIATELY AND CORRECT THIS HOAX RPT HOAX. WE ARE ALL WELL AND SEND YOU OUR REGARDS. ALL BEST. SYD SCHANBERG, CONFIDENTIAL

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NEW YORK TIMES. END TEXT.

3. STORY APPARENTLY REFERRED TO BY SCHANBERG APPEARED ON FRONT PAGE OF BANGKOK WORLD APRIL 15 AND READ AS FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT: STOP PRESS. AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO CAMBODIA JOHN GUNTHER DEAN THIS MORNING SAID THAT HE HAD RECEIVED AN SOS FROM NEWSMEN WHO HAD REMAINED IN PHNOM PENH AFTER THE EVACUATION. PRESENTLY HOLED UP IN THE FRENCH EMBASSY, THE NEWSMEN EXPRESSED FEAR THAT THE INVADING FORCES WOULD KILL ALL AMERICANS, AND THEY ASKED FOR AID. DEAN REPORTEDLY SAID HERE: "WE DID EVERY-THING TO GET THEM OUT, BUT RIGHT NOW THE DECISION TO RESCUE THEM IS ENTIRELY OUT OF MY HANDS. IT IS A MILITARY DECISION." DEAN ALSO SAID THAT HIS HOUSE AND THE AMERICAN EMBASSY HAD BEEN TOTALLY LOOTED. END TEXT.

4. COMMENT: AMBASSADOR DEAN WAS IN NO REPEAT NO WAY RESPONSIBLE FOR BANGKOK WORLD ITEM ABOVE. HE AND ALL SENIOR MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF HAVE ASSIDUOUSLY AVOIDED ALL CONTACT WITH PRESS OF ANY KIND SINCE ARRIVING IN BANGKOK APRIL 12. ALL REQUESTS FOR INTERVIEWS HAVE BEEN DENIED. QUOTATION ATTRIBUTED TO AMBASSADOR DEAN BY BANGKOK WORLD IS A FABRICATION SINCE HE MADE NO SUCH STATEMENT TO ANYONE.

5. AMBASSADOR DEAN DOES NOT INTEND TO REPLY TO SCHANBERG'S COMMERCIAL CABLE. THERE ARE SEVERAL POSSIBILITIES:

(A) SCHANBERG MEANS WHAT HE SAYS, I.E., HE DOES NOT WANT TO BE EVACUATED;

(B) HIS COMMERCIAL CABLE IS A PROTECTIVE DEVICE TO KEEP PEOPLE IN PHNOM PENH FROM KNOWING WHAT HE IS REALLY UP TO;

(C) SCHANBERG HAS TAKEN LEAVE OF HIS SENSES.

6. WE LEAVE IT TO PETER COLLINS, DICK BLYSTONE AND COMPANY TO FIGURE OUT WHAT ALL THIS MEANS. FRANKLY, WE ARE READY TO WASH OUR HAND OF ENTIRE MATTER. END COMMENT.
MASTERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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To: STATE SAIGON
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